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## **Under the Hammer: Selling Haroldston The Sale of the Mansion House and Estate, 1857**

By Roger Turvey

Today Haroldston is a shadow of its former glory. Described in the new edition of the Pevsner Architectural Guides for Pembrokeshire as the ‘very ruined fragments of the expansive home of the influential Perrots’, the mansion was once among the largest and most imposing of the great gentry houses that dominated the social, political and economic life of the county.<sup>1</sup> Established in the late thirteenth century by the Harold family, after whom it is presumably named, the mansion house, and its estate, remained their home until the early fifteenth century when death and inheritance conspired to deliver it into the hands of the Perrots. What began as a fairly modest house was added to over the centuries until it reached the size and proportion described in the sale catalogue of 1857.<sup>2</sup> It is fair to say that Haroldston reached its zenith under the Perrots who, more than anyone else, cared for and added considerably to both the house and estate. They and their descendants – Perrot and Pakington – held the property for over three hundred years, from its acquisition, in about 1442, until its sale, to Philipps of Picton Castle, in 1763. Already largely ruinous by the time of its sale to the Philipps family, they assisted its decline by stripping the house of what remained of its glass, lead, slate and wooden beams. The result was a building left to the mercy of the elements, which did its work so thoroughly in so short a space of time that Richard Fenton could make no sense of the layout of what remained when visiting the house in 1811.<sup>3</sup>

The sale of the house and its estate in 1857 is important because, apart from a plan of the estate drawn up in the early 1760s, the descriptions reproduced here remain the best and most complete record of what comprised the Haroldston of history.<sup>4</sup> The descriptions and estate plans speak for themselves but, it is perhaps worthy of note, that in our more heritage conscious society, the suggestion that ‘The ruins which are very picturesque would make an admirable site for a Gentleman’s Residence’ would be met, hopefully, with howls of derision and protest. To suggest that the ruins might be removed to make way for a modern development was, apparently, acceptable to the Victorians. Today that could never happen! Or could it?

In Chancery.

HOGARTH v. PHILLIPS.

PEMBROKESHIRE, SOUTH WALES,  
NEAR TO THE  
**TOWN AND COUNTY OF HAVERFORDWEST,**  
AND THE  
IMPORTANT TOWN OF MILFORD.

PARTICULARS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE  
OF VALUABLE  
**FREEHOLD PROPERTY,**

COMPRISING THE BEAUTIFUL ESTATE OF  
**HARROLDSTON SAINT ISSELLS,**  
CLOSE TO HAVERFORDWEST,  
**THE FARM OF LIDDASTON,**

*Near to the TOWN of MILFORD, on the SHORES of MILFORD-HAVEN;*

SOME GOOD

**DWELLING HOUSES WITH STORES ;**  
FOUR WHARFS OR COAL YARDS ;  
**A STONE MASON'S YARD WITH HOUSE ATTACHED, AND SEVERAL**  
**SMALL DWELLING HOUSES,**

*ALL IN THE TOWN AND COUNTY OF HAVERFORDWEST,*

WHICH WILL BE OFFERED FOR

**SALE BY AUCTION,**

PURSUANT TO A DECREE OF THE HIGH COURT OF CHANCERY,

**IN FIFTEEN LOTS,**

**BY MR. HENRY PHILLIPS,**

THE AUCTIONEER APPOINTED TO SELL THE SAME,

**AT THE CASTLE HOTEL, HAVERFORDWEST,**

On TUESDAY, the 8th SEPTEMBER, 1857, at one o'clock precisely.

*Particulars with Plans may be had at the Nelson Hotel, Milford ; the Lion Hotel, Pembroke ; of Messrs. Henderson & Leach, Solicitors, 10, Lancaster Place, Strand, London ; of Messrs. Jackson & Smith, Solicitors, 19, Essex Street, London ; of Messrs. Symes & Co., Solicitors, 33, Fenchurch Street, London ; of Messrs. Cooper & Hodgson, Solicitors, No. 3, Verulam Buildings, London ; of the Auctioneer, Hill-Street, Haverfordwest ; and of Messrs. Harvey & Sons, Land Agents, Haverfordwest.*

THE

# Valuable Freehold Estate,

*Situate very near to the TOWN AND COUNTY OF HAVERFORDWEST,*

CALLED

## HARROLDSTON SAINT ISSELLS,

WITH THE

## RUINS OF THE OLD MANSION OF HARROLDSTON,

Possessing great Historical Interest as the former Seat of the Perrott Family, and more recently of the Pakingtons connected also with the names of Addison, and Lady Betty Rich.

*The RUINS which are very picturesque would make an admirable site for a Gentleman's Residence.*

This beautiful Estate, Tithe free and Land Tax redeemed, will be subdivided into Five Lots as under.

LOT 1. (colored Pink.)

### THE RUINS

OF THE

### OLD MANSION OF HARROLDSTON,

WITH

### COTTAGES, OUT-BUILDINGS, WALLED GARDEN, AND MEADOW LAND,

*Containing altogether 9a. 0r. 13p. as under:—*

No. on Plan.	DESCRIPTION.	QUANTITY.		
		A.	R.	P.
1	Bridge Meadow .....	1	2	11
2	Grove Field .....	2	3	4
3	Part of Grove Field ....	0	2	4
4	Little Grove Field ....	2	0	5
5	Ruins of Mansion House, Gardens, &c.....	0	1	11
6	Castle Walls .....	1	0	2
7	Hopewalk, Houses, Gardens, &c. ....	0	3	16
		9	0	13

In the occupation of Mr. William Gough Griffiths, as yearly tenant at the rent of £28 per annum, the tenant paying all Rates and Taxes The tenant is under notice to quit at Michaelmas next.

A Chief Rent to the Crown or Prince of Wales of 4s. 4d. per annum issuing out of the whole of the Harroldston Estate is to be borne by this Lot exclusively, and in exoneration of the other Lots subject thereto.

**LOT 2 (colored Blue.)**

ALL THOSE

# Two Fields of Meadow Land

WITH AN

## OUT-HOUSE, AND PLANTATION,

At the Southern extremity of this lot,

*Containing 6a 3r. 4p. as under :—*

No. on Plan.	DESCRIPTION.	QUANTITY.		
		A.	R.	P.
8	The Orchard .....	3	3	34
9	The Walk Field, and Plantation .....	2	3	10
		6	3	4

In the occupation of Mr. J. B. Henley, as yearly tenant, at the rent of £20 per annum, the tenant paying all Rates and Taxes.

The tenant is under notice to quit at Michaelmas next.

The purchaser of this lot will have to pay £20 for timber in addition to his purchase money.

**LOT 3 (colored Yellow.)**

## FIVE CLOSES OF

# MEADOW & PASTURE LAND,

Situate close to the Line of the South Wales Railway, with a good stream of water running through the land,

*Containing together 11a. 3r. 6p. as under :*

No. on Plan.	DESCRIPTION.	QUANTITY.		
		A.	R.	P.
10	Bridge Meadow .....	7	0	19
11	Small Piece .....	0	0	12
12	Part of Little Grove Field .....	0	1	25
13	Part of West Meadow ..	1	1	4
14	West Meadow .....	2	3	22
		11	3	6

In the occupation, with lot 4, of William Rees, Esq., as yearly tenant at a rent for the whole of £45, the tenant paying all rates and taxes. The tenant is under notice to quit at Michaelmas next.

A portion of the land lying between the Brook and the Mill Leet, is believed to be either in the Parish of Saint Thomas, or to be Extra Parochial. The apportioned rent for this lot is £20 per annum.

**LOT 4 (colored green.)**

**THREE FIELDS OF MEADOW LAND,**

*On the South side of the Road to MERLIN'S BRIDGE,*

**AS UNDER :**

No. on Plan.	DESCRIPTION.	QUANTITY.		
		A.	R.	P.
15	Upper Calves Park .....	3	0	2
16	West Calves Park .....	4	0	36
17	East Calves Park .....	5	0	20
		12	1	18

In the occupation, with lot 3, of William Rees, Esq., as yearly tenant, at a rent for the whole of £45, the tenant paying all rates and taxes. The tenant is under notice to quit at Michaelmas next. The apportioned rent for this lot is £25 per annum.

N. B.—The Wooden Shed in No 15, is the property of the Tenant, and can be removed by him.

**LOT 5 (colored Brown.)**

**THREE VALUABLE FIELDS**

**WITH AN ENCLOSED HAYGUARD ADJOINING LOT 3,**

**CONSISTING OF**

**MEADOW AND PASTURE LAND,**

**And containing 10a. 0r. 23p. as under :**

No. on Plan.	DESCRIPTION.	QUANTITY.		
		A.	R.	P.
18	Little Meadow .....	1	2	2
19	Big Meadow .....	3	0	24
20	Dairy Park .....	5	1	24
21	Hayguard .....	0	0	13
		10	0	23

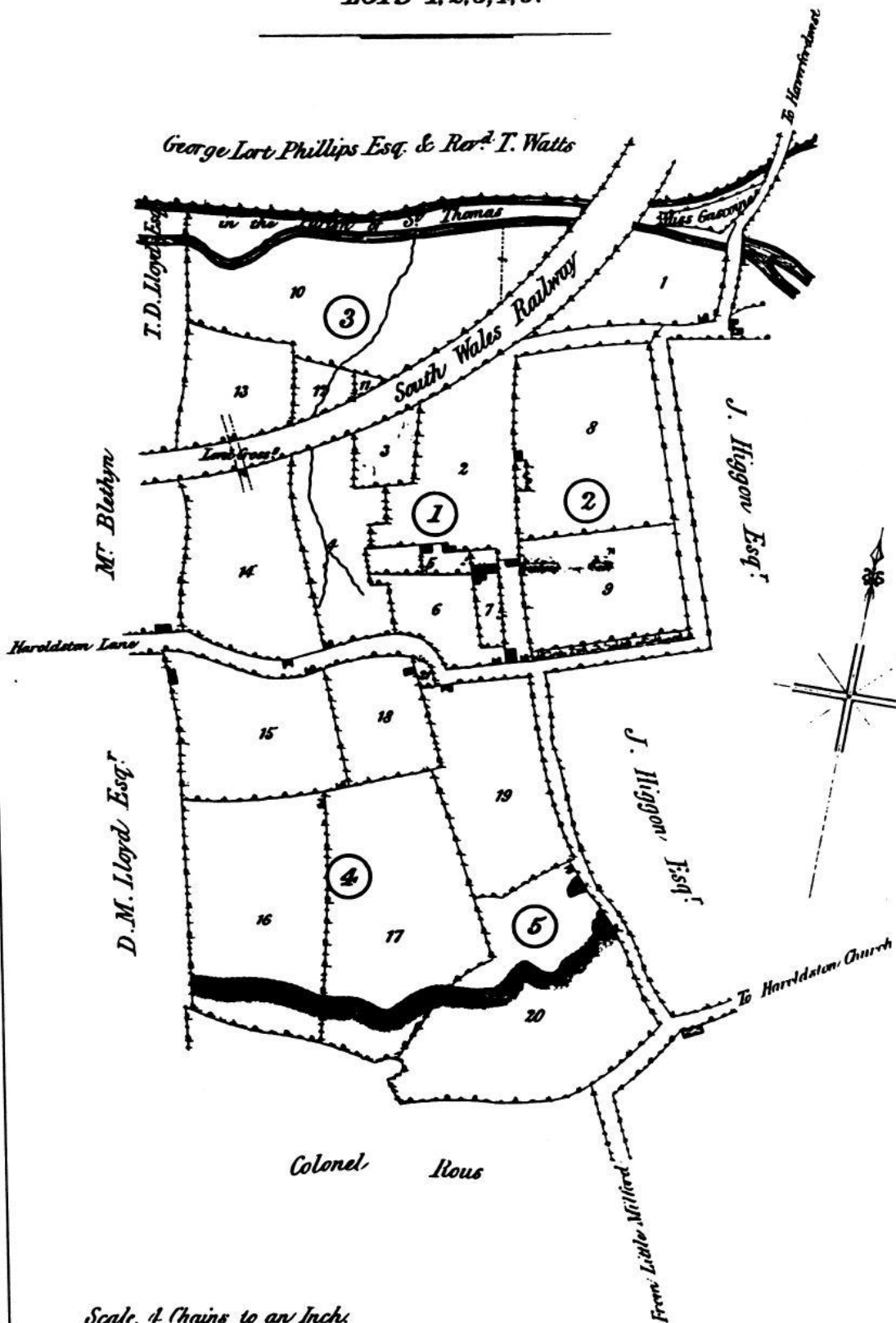
In the occupation of Mr. John Phillips, as yearly tenant, at the low rent of £20 per annum, the tenant paying all rates and taxes.

The tenant is under notice to quit at Michaelmas next.

# ESTATE OF HAROLDSTON, ST ISSELS.

FOR SALE BY AUCTION, 1857.

LOTS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.



## Notes

1. Thomas Lloyd, Julian Orbach and Robert Scourfield, *Pevsner Architectural Guides. The Buildings of Wales: Pembrokeshire* (London, 2004), 200. Sadly, the guide perpetuates errors about the Perrot family that have long been resolved in print elsewhere. For example, they did not own Haroldston from the late thirteenth century and Thomas Perrot, father of Sir John, was never knighted nor was he one of the many Gentlemen of the Bedchamber to Henry VIII.
2. Pembrokeshire Record Office, Haverfordwest. DB13/134. I wish to thank the staff of the Record Office for their courtesy and efficiency in locating various materials connected with Haroldston, and for permission to reproduce the sale documents herein printed for the first time.
3. Richard Fenton, *A Historical Tour Through Pembrokeshire* (1811), 223.
4. For a fuller history of Haroldston, see R. Turvey, 'A History and Survey of Haroldston House and Gardens, Pembrokeshire: An Unexcavated Manorial Complex', *Archaeologia Cambrensis* (Forthcoming, 2005).